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### **NAVC Conference Names 2013 Exotics Speaker of the Year**

ORLANDO, FL—The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) Conference is pleased to name Joerg Mayer, DVM, MS, DABVP (ECM), DECZM (Small Mammal), Exotics Speaker of the Year for the NAVC Conference 2013. Dr. Mayer, Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine at the University of Georgia (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine, lectured at the conference this year after a long hiatus.

"I can't even put into words what it means to me to win this award," says Dr. Mayer. "It's such an honor to be selected, especially when there are so many talented and popular speakers at the conference." A first-time winner, Dr. Mayer spoke on a range of exotic animal topics at the conference, including rabbit and rodent anesthesia, small mammal dermatology, and thymoma management in rabbits. "The attendees at the NAVC Conference are always very engaged, which makes it great fun for the speaker," says Dr. Mayer. "I particularly enjoyed the group lectures," he recalls, "where we presented information as a team to show that using different methods can lead to the same successful outcome."

Dr. Mayer grew up in Germany, then went to Hungary to study veterinary medicine shortly after the fall of the Iron Curtain. "I've always had a strong interest in exotic animal medicine," notes Dr. Mayer. So after he received his doctoral degree from the University of Budapest, he traveled to the United States for an internship in zoological medicine and surgery at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. He then joined a research team for a 3-month expedition to Papua, New Guinea, to study wild tree kangaroos.

Dr. Mayer's next stop was the Royal Veterinary College in London, where he earned his master's degree in wild animal health. Working on his master's thesis project, which focused on lead toxicity in the common loon, brought him to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in North Grafton, Massachusetts, where he remained for 10 years as a Clinical Associate Professor and Head of the Clinical Service for Exotic Animals. He moved to Athens, Georgia in 2010 to take the job of Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine at UGA.

Dr. Mayer lectures regularly at large national and international conferences on all aspects of exotic animal medicine. He especially enjoys the opportunity to interact with colleagues during his travels. "I always learn so much when we discuss medicine and surgery during the social programs," he notes. "I always leave these meetings very energized and motivated to try something new!"

Dr. Mayer was among the first group of specialists to be certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in Exotic Companion Mammal Medicine. He is also a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine and served as the President of the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians from 2010 to 2012. Dr. Mayer has written many scientific articles and book chapters, some of which have been translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Most recently, he coauthored the 784-page *Clinical Veterinary Advisor: Birds and Exotic Pets*, which was published in early 2013.

NAVC Speakers of the Year are selected by the conference attendees. A complete list of the 2013 Speakers of the Year can be found at [NAVC.com/navc-conference/program/speakers-of-the-year-2013](http://NAVC.com/navc-conference/program/speakers-of-the-year-2013).

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**Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Gainesville, Florida, the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) is a nonprofit organization that provides world-class professional development for the global veterinary healthcare community. The organization's largest educational initiative, the annual NAVC Conference, hosts 16,000 attendees and 350 speakers from more than 70 countries each year. Other educational offerings include the NAVC Institute, NAVC Expeditions and *Clinician's Brief*, the official journal of the NAVC. The NAVC's international conference partners include the Latin American Veterinary Conference (LAVC), the Southern European Veterinary Conference (SEVC) and the Asian Pacific Veterinary Conference (APVC). Visit NAVC.com for more information.**